



Chapter 8

The NCCS Committee of Principals

8.1 Overview

As defined in National Security Presidential Directive 28 (NSPD-28), the Nuclear Command and Control System (NCCS) is the combination of facilities, equipment, communications, procedures, and personnel essential for planning, directing, and controlling nuclear weapons, weapon systems, and associated operations. In order to facilitate Interagency coordination to maintain a robust NCCS and to meet the objectives outlined in the Directive, NSPD-28 calls for the creation of a NCCS Committee of Principals (CoP) comprised of individuals from each of ten NCCS departments and agencies. The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), by direction from the President, serves as the Executive Agent for the NCCS CoP, and the Department of Defense

plays an integral role in the development and implementation of a support structure for the NCCS CoP across the Interagency. Figure 8.1 illustrates the organization of the CoP.

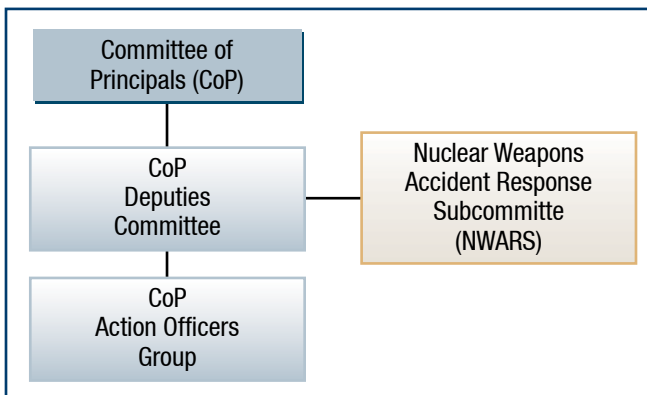


Figure 8.1 CoP Organization

8.2 *National Security Presidential Directive 28 (NSPD-28)*

NSPD-28, *U.S. Nuclear Weapons Command and Control, Safety, and Security*, was issued on 30 June 2003. The document supersedes three former Presidential Directives:

- ▲ National Security Decision Memorandum 312, *Nuclear Weapons Recovery Policy* (1975);
- ▲ National Security Decision Directive 281, *Nuclear Weapons Command and Control* (1987); and

- ▲ National Security Decision Directive 309, *Nuclear Weapons Safety, Security, and Control* (1988).

NSPD-28 provides explicit guidance and standards in three nuclear weapons-related areas: nuclear command and control (NC²), nuclear weapons safety, and nuclear weapons security.

8.3 *Nuclear Command and Control System (NCCS)*

NSPD-28 reaffirms the need for a NCCS that provides the President with an integrated, flexible, secure, responsive, and enduring system to support the exercise of his authority over the use of nuclear weapons. The NCCS may be required to provide presidential support in any national crisis.

To that end, three of the key objectives identified in NSPD-28 are:

- ▲ To provide a means to ensure use of U.S. nuclear weapons and warheads when authorized and to prevent unauthorized or accidental use;
- ▲ To protect critical information and information systems; and
- ▲ To maintain a supporting infrastructure that assures the reliability of current capabilities and that can respond to future requirements.

In addition to identifying three key NCCS objectives, NSPD-28 designates the SECDEF as the Executive Agent (EA) of the NCCS and directs the EA to establish an interagency NCCS Committee of Principals (CoP).

8.4 *The NCCS CoP*

The NCCS CoP was established in 2004 and its membership includes a senior official from each of the following NCCS components:

- ▲ White House Military Office
- ▲ Department of Defense (DoD)
- ▲ Department of State (DOS)
- ▲ Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)
- ▲ Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- ▲ Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- ▲ Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI)
- ▲ National Security Council (NSC)

- ▲ Homeland Security Council (HSC)
- ▲ Director, NCCS Support Staff (NSS)¹

In addition to the members listed above, the following individuals attend NCCS CoP meetings as invited guests: the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commander, United States Northern Command, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Associate Director for National Security Programs at the Office of Management and Budget.

8.4.1 NCCS CoP History

The SECDEF, in his role as the NCCS EA, appointed the Deputy Secretary of Defense (DEPSECDEF) to chair the NCCS CoP. The DEPSECDEF named the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)) as the DoD member of the NCCS CoP. In addition, the USD(AT&L) provides a support structure for the NCCS CoP and facilitates implementation of the structure across the NCCS departments and agencies. The SECDEF, as the EA, assigned implementation authority to USD(AT&L) and directed USD(AT&L) to manage all NCCS compliance activities within DoD.

The DEPSECDEF appointed the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs (ATSD(NCB)) as Executive Secretary of the NCCS CoP, who, in turn, directed the Office of the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters (ODATSD(NM)) to be the supporting agent for DoD implementation of NSPD-28 and for the administration of the NCCS CoP.

The CoP first met in December 2004. CoP meetings are held three times per year, normally in March, July, and November.

8.4.2 NCCS CoP Responsibilities

NSPD-28 established the NCCS CoP in order to facilitate interagency cooperation and to ensure effective implementation of the NSPD. The NCCS CoP has direct oversight of implementation activities, including:

- ▲ Addressing NCCS-related issues applicable to two or more Department or Agencies;
- ▲ Promoting effective liaison among Federal Government NCCS components;

¹ As stated in DoD Directive 3150.06, *U.S. Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff*, the Commander, United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), is designated as the Director of the Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff (NSS).

- ▲ Coordinating interdepartmental NCCS supporting programs and policies to ensure unified and integrated management of the NCCS priority objects stated in NSPD-28;
- ▲ Recommending priorities for funding;
- ▲ Monitoring corrective actions within implementing organizations; and
- ▲ Establishing mechanisms to share best practices and lessons learned.

8.4.3 The NCCS CoP Deputies Committee

The NCCS CoP established the Deputies Committee at its inaugural meeting to maintain momentum on interagency activities, examine key issues, and brief interim status reports between CoP meetings. Each member of the NCCS CoP selected a participant to attend the Deputies Committee. The USD(AT&L) directed the ATSD(NCB) to serve as the committee chairperson. The Deputies Committee meets three times per year, normally in January, May, and September. The first NCCS CoP Deputies Committee was held in March 2005.

8.4.4 Nuclear Weapons Accident Response Subcommittee (NWARS)

The NWARS is a standing subcommittee under the NCCS CoP Deputies Committee; the committee supports and advises the NCCS CoP Deputies on issues associated with a national response to a U.S. nuclear weapon accident.² Membership in the NWARS is based upon the responsibilities of the NCCS CoP and other agencies tasked as cooperating agencies under the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex of the National Response Plan (NRP). Agencies that routinely maintain custody of nuclear weapons are also represented. The NWARS is chaired by DATSD(NM). The Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations, Department of Energy, serves as the Vice Chairman.

8.4.5 NCCS CoP Action Officers Group

The NCCS CoP is supported by an Action Officers (AOs) Group that meets once monthly. The group meets to ensure consistent progress on NCCS CoP issues and to facilitate dissemination of NCCS CoP-related information. The

² For the purposes of the NWARS, a nuclear weapon accident is defined as an unexpected event involving nuclear weapons or radiological nuclear weapon components that results in nuclear detonation, non-nuclear detonation, burning of a nuclear weapon or radiological component, radioactive contamination, damage to a nuclear weapon, or a public hazard (actual or implied). Although the issues related to the aforementioned definition may be germane to other types of nuclear weapons situations (i.e. accidental firing or theft), such situations are beyond the scope of the NWARS.

AOs prepare issue briefs for their respective NCCS Principal responsible for implementing NSPD-28.

8.5 *DoD-Specific NSPD-28 Compliance Actions*

To manage DoD compliance with NSPD-28 requirements, a system of NSPD-28-related functional areas have been identified, and Principal Staff Assistants for these areas within DoD have been designated as follows:

1. Nuclear Command and Control (NC²) – Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks & Information Integration/DoD Chief Information Officer (ASD(NII)/DoD CIO)
2. Information Assurance – ASD(NII)
3. Survivability of NC² Equipment and Facilities – ASD(NII)
4. Intelligence Matters – Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I))
5. Surety³ – USD(AT&L)
6. Incident Response – USD(AT&L)
7. Survivability of Nuclear Weapons and Weapons Systems – USD(AT&L)

USD(AT&L) is also responsible for overall NSPD-28 management (as appointed by the SECDEF).

8.6 *DoD NSPD-28 Implementation Senior Management Oversight*

As the implementation authority for all DoD NSPD-28 compliance activities, USD(AT&L) established a two-tier Flag Level management and oversight structure to assist the SECDEF in the execution of NCCS responsibilities assigned to the DoD:

- ▲ NSPD-28 Senior Oversight Council (SNOC), a four-star body chaired by USD(AT&L)
- ▲ NSPD-28 Oversight Council (NOC), a two-star body chaired by ATSD(NCB)

The oversight councils meet as needed to discuss and vote on issues related to NSPD-28; the general responsibilities of the committees relate to NC², safety, and security matters.

³ For the purposes of the above system, surety is defined as safety, security, and use control.

SNOC membership includes the following individuals:

- ▲ Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P))
- ▲ Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (VCJCS)
- ▲ ASD(NII)/DoD CIO
- ▲ Other U.S. government officials as determined by the Committee Chair
- ▲ OASD(NII)/DoD CIO
- ▲ United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM)
- ▲ Office of the Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation (PA&E)
- ▲ Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)
- ▲ Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
- ▲ National Security Agency (NSA)
- ▲ Representatives from the Joint Staff Directorates J3, J5, and J6
- ▲ Other U.S. government officials as determined by the Committee Chair

NOC membership includes representatives from the following DoD agencies and offices:

- ▲ Representative from each military service
- ▲ OUSD(P)
- ▲ OUSD(I)

